

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 20, 2004 LB 906

passed out an article talking about a new risk that had been discovered by researchers at the University of Texas--tattooing. They found that anyone who was tattooed in a commercial facility is nine times more likely to be infected with hepatitis C than someone who hasn't been tattooed. The virus is most likely transmitted through unsterilized equipment, and that's exactly what we're trying to get at through this bill is to look at sanitary conditions, making sure that the equipment is sterilized. Also, the handout that you received this morning, tattoos often have hidden health hazards beyond hepatitis and HIV risks. Some people find out that they're sensitive to dyes. In a few cases, gangrene has been developed from an infection. Also, infection from body piercing is fairly common. Some people have an allergic reaction to metal that is used. One in ten will have bleeding complications. One in fifteen will have a large scar or reaction at the site. So I think what we're doing is just trying to take these precautions. And I do support the amendment. I believe that all of the amendments are addressing some of the technical areas, some of the words that need cleaning up, and I do appreciate taking the time to do this. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, not to be argumentative with Senator Stuhr, but let me kind of run some of the aspects of the bill or the committee amendment, which now becomes the bill, then you tell me if it's overregulating. First of all, I might have inaccurately said on General File that this applied to all piercings. Well, there's a specific exclusion that pierced ears are not included in this. So, while we are going to have tattoo artists, and if you want to have another part of your body pierced, you have to go through these regulations, but if you want to have your ears pierced you have to...you're not...you're not...you don't have to comply with any of these regulations. I know of many people that have had infections due to pierced ears and people who have had pierced ears continually have infections or it was done improperly, but that's excluded under this act. Let me just tell you a couple other things. We talked about, on General File, about permanent color technology, and in talking to a physician who's a member